

## Did you know...



Children with print awareness understand that print has different functions; for example, menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can point to a favorite restaurant or warn of danger. Show children that print is all around them. Point it out when you are out in the community or around the house.

It takes time and practice for children to understand that letters are symbols that create words, and that words represent things. Model for your child how to hold a book and that you read a sentence from left to right. Running your finger under the words as you read shows them to read from the top to the bottom of the page. Make a game of these skills to keep it fun!

## Here's how...

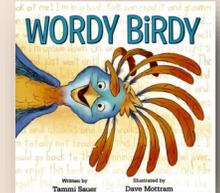


- ✦ Have a special box or drawer with materials that your child can use for writing and drawing.
- ✦ Create writing kits filled with different types of paper, envelopes, labels and stickers, greeting cards, note pads, and a variety of writing tools.
- ✦ Junk mail can be a treasure trove for your child. Save envelopes, labels, stickers, or small writing pads you receive to put in your child's writing kit.
- ✦ Provide lots of experiences for writing practice—let your child write with their finger in pudding or shaving cream on a flat surface, draw in sand or dry Jell-O in a flat box or pan, write letters with paint and a paint brush, and/or use sidewalk chalk.

## Read

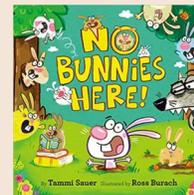


### **Wordy Birdy, by Tammi Sauer**



Wordy Birdy LOVES to talk. But does she love to listen? Not so much. As she's out walking one day and talking, talking, talking, not listening to all the warnings from signs and her friends, she doesn't see the DOOM ahead. This book is so fun to read with young children, and they will likely love it more than spaghetti and unicorns.

Look for other titles by the author at your public library, and visit her website at [www.tammisauer.com](http://www.tammisauer.com)



*New in February 2022*

## Choosing Books



### **Books that develop awareness of print:**

- Books with lots of punctuation marks
- Books with signs, lists, labels, menus, charts, instructions, etc., as part of the illustrations
- Books in which characters are using print in different ways, such as writing a letter or making a checklist
- Books with speech or thought bubbles
- Recipe books

## Talk

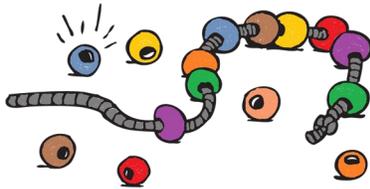


Point out the word bubbles to your child and explain that they are used to show what the character is saying. Also point out the different types of punctuation marks and type, and show how these clues tell us how to read the words with emotion.

## Write



Stringing beads is one way to get little fingers ready to write. Give your child a shoestring, or a piece of yarn with some tape wrapped around one end. Set out large beads, cereal rings, or pasta such as rigatoni, and let your child practice stringing the objects onto the shoelace or yarn. The movement of picking up the bead with one hand and guiding the end of the string or yarn through the hole helps strengthen finger muscles and develops hand-eye coordination.



## Play



### Five Little Chickadees

*(Hold up hand and put down one finger each time a bird flies away.)*

Five little chickadees sitting in a door.  
One flew away and then there were four.

Four little chickadees sitting in a tree.  
One flew away and then there were three.

Three little chickadees looking at you.  
One flew away and then there were two.

Two little chickadees sitting in the sun.  
One flew away and then there was one.

One little chickadee pecking at a bun.  
He flew away and then there were none.

*(Let your child fill in the rhyming word from each second line.)*



## Sing



### Barnyard Song

*Sung to: If You're Happy and You Know It*

If you're a chicken and you know it  
say, "cluck cluck."

If you're a chicken and you know it  
say, "cluck cluck."

If you're a chicken and you know it,  
then you really ought to show it.

If you're a chicken and you know it  
say, "cluck cluck."

*Repeat with:*

Pig: "oink, oink"

Cow: "moo, moo"

Sheep: "baa, baa"



Hear tune: [www.thelearninggroove.com/if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it)

## At your library...



**Electronic books and audio books:** Screen time for preschoolers should be limited; however, reading an occasional picture book with your child on your device is one way to enjoy more great stories together. Or skip the screen—listening to audio books develops important early literacy skills. Ask your library about e-books and audio books available for checkout.